(b) whether the working condition at the hospital is unhygenic and the entire paraphernalia has always foul smell emanating from nearby filths;

(c) whether such a situation is prevalent for the last decade; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps are being taken for setting the pathetic situation right for the doctors, working members of the staff and patients too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, there is a landfill nearby which is almost full and on windy days some smell from the landfill does travel towards the Hospital.

(d) Due care to minimize its impact is being taken through planting of saplings/grass and spraying of deodorants and insecticides.

PF Depostis

†2414. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that provident fund is being collected in the country;

(b) if so, the amount deposited in the fund by the end of December, 2002;

(c) whether Government have issued any directions to invest the fund elsewhere; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have received any complaints with regard to violation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount deposited in the Employees Provident Fund as on 31.12.02 was Rs. 60,874.99 crore.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-para (1) of para 52 of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, Central Government notifies the pattern of investment from time to time and the amount belonging to the fund is invested in accordance with the prescribed pattern.

(d) There has been no complaint as regards violation of extent pattern of investment.

ESIC Cover to Tendu Leaf Workers

2415. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has decided to bring Tendu Leaf Workers under the coverage of the Employees State Insurance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the social security measures proposed to be extended to these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) As on date no such proposal has been received by the ESI Corporation from the State Government of Orissa.

Loss of Jobs Due to Closure of Tea Gardens

2416. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the workers who have, so far, lost their jobs due to abrupt closure of tea gardens in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar districts, tea estate-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that in most cases, the owners have left the tea estates without taking care of legitimate dues of workers; and

(c) how many tea estate owners have defaulted in depositing P.F. etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.